

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

WAMP, Zach (Republican)  
Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tennessee  
Elected 1994 to 104<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Fort Benning, GA - 28 October 1957

Home: Chattanooga, TN

Marital status: Married (Kimberly) - 2 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: U of North Carolina, 1977-78, 1979-80; U of Tennessee, 1978-1979

Profession: Real estate broker

Military: None

Political: Unsuccessful run for US House against Rep Llyod in 1992. Elected in 1994 with 52% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 64% of the vote and in 2002 with 65%.

Rep Wamp is a fiscal conservative, has said he won't serve more than 12 years and will take no money from PACs. Views himself as a "spiritual" man and possesses a strongly conservative ideology. Much of his energy is devoted to the House Prayer Breakfast. A signer of the "Contract with America."

In the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, was appointed to the Appropriations Committee and left the Science, Small Business, and Transportation Cmtes. Suggested the Clinton Administration was "helping" China improve its missile technology and aiding India in its race for nuclear arms. Expressed concerns for military readiness – including the Air Force's pilot shortage and lack of an operational theater missile defense system (Press Release, 12Jul98). In August 98 was included among several reform-minded House conservatives that were said to practice the "parochial politics of pork" (CQ Weekly, 22Aug98).

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, angered many of his colleagues by joining the Democrats in backing legislation to overhaul campaign finance laws. Called it a "character building experience." Co-chaired the bipartisan Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Caucus. Voted in 2001 to overturn workplace safety regulations instituted by the Clinton administration. Unsuccessfully pushed for legislation requiring the labeling of entertainment products, e.g., video games, that contain violent content. Worked with Democrat Rep Etheridge on a "Character Counts" bill authorizing federal grants to schools for character education programs.

Additional: In his early 20s was addicted to cocaine and went through rehabilitation.

Tennessee Valley Authority operates two nuclear power plants in his district. Former chairman of National Prayer Breakfast; member of the House Pro-Life Caucus

AF Bases: Lovell Field ANG

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS – Subc incl: Energy & Water, Vice Chmn; Homeland Security; Interior